## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In image processing method for instructing an image output unit to output onto a recording medium a reference image based on a predetermined patch pattern, and generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of read data of the reference image output by the image output unit, wherein

in the patch pattern, plural identical patches are disposed at different positions on the recording medium.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the reference image output by the image output unit is read by a flatbed scanner.

3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein an average of the read data concerning the plural identical patches is obtained.

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the number of patches varies according to a color of the patches.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the patch pattern, the identical patches are disposed at the different positions in a main-scan direction and a sub-scan direction.

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patch varies according to a kind of recording material to be used in the image output unit.

7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the number of patches at a high density portion is larger than the number of patches at a low density portion.

8. An image processing method for instructing an image output unit to output onto a recording medium a reference image based on a predetermined patch pattern, and generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of read data of the reference image output by the image output unit, wherein

in the patch pattern, the number of patches of black is different from the number of patches of another color.

9. An image processing apparatus which comprises instruction means for instructing an image output unit to output onto a recording medium a reference image based on a predetermined patch pattern, and generation means for generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of read data obtained by reading the reference image output from the image output unit with use of a flatbed scanner, wherein

in the patch pattern, plural identical patches are

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disposed at different positions on the recording medium.

10. A recording medium for recording a program to perform an image process, said medium recording:

a code for instructing an image output unit to output a reference image based on a patch pattern in which plural identical patches are disposed at different positions on the recording medium; and

a code for generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of read data of the reference image output by the image output unit.

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